

# You're invited to the Winter Trek Express 2016!



The US Forest Service, Heavenly Ski Resort, the City of South Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe Heritage Foundation are excited to announce our twelve year of our high mountain Winter Trek Express Conservation Education Program.

**Where and When:** Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade snow shoe program takes place **Wednesdays and Thursdays** starting Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and continuing through Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. We meet at the Heavenly Village Transit Center - home of the Explore Tahoe Visitor Center near Stateline. The Heavenly Ski Resort provides us with a free gondola ride to the top of the mountain. The US Forest Service provides the snow shoes and ranger guides. Classes arrive at 10:00 am and depart at 1:00 pm. We can only accommodate one class per day (we have snow shoes for 30 students/chaperones). ***The first day to reserve for your Winter Trek Express field trip is Monday, December 14, 2015.***

**Program Overview:** A pre-visit/post-visit educational and information packet is electronically mailed to interested teachers prior to the visit. Curriculum includes geology and ecology of the Basin, forest health, winter animal strategies and natural history topics. We present a 20-minute introductory PowerPoint program before taking our 12 minute, 2.4 mile ride in the gondola. After a quick stop at the mid-station for a breath taking view and an educational opportunity, we continue to our destination at the top of the mountain (9,000 ft. elevation) for our snow shoe adventure. Students quickly learn snow shoe techniques and off we go looking for signs of wildlife, discussing adaptive behaviors of animals and understanding the importance of snow. The weather and your schedule will determine if we eat our lunches at the top of the mountain at a scenic overlook (in the snow) or in the gondola as we return down the mountain.



**Health & Safety Requirements:** Because our snow shoe adventure is at an elevation of 9,000 ft., extreme low temperatures and high winds dictate that participants must wear proper clothing: waterproof jacket, waterproof boots (no snowboarding boots please; they do not fit in the bindings), a warm hat, waterproof gloves, sunglasses and sunscreen. Waterproof pants are not required but highly recommended; cold, wet denim pants are not comfortable.

**Cost of Program:** ***Please see the attached letter from our partner nonprofit association, Tahoe Heritage Foundation (THF) as the procedures and cost of the Winter Trek program have changed.***

Teachers new to the program may check our Forest Service website for more information at <http://fs.usda.gov/lbmu> and navigate to "Learning Center" on the left bar, then follow the "Just for Kids," link and finally the "Winter Trek" link.

Each gondola car can carry eight people. We must have one adult per gondola car with up to seven students in each gondola car. Including the two US Forest Service naturalists and one teacher, we require one to three adult chaperones dependent on your class size. We cannot accommodate extra chaperones.



If you would like to join us for this special field trip, please call the front desk operating switch board at **(530) 543-2694** starting **Monday, December 14, 2015** (8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday-no holidays) to reserve your class fieldtrip date for our snow adventure and to address any questions you might have. Include your school name and location, your name and mailing address, and the number of students in your class. If no one answers, please give the front desk staff ample time to answer the high volume of visitors and phone calls they are receiving this time of year. Thank you and we look forward to your trip!

Sincerely,

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